

ACTIVITY KIT

The Sky Painter

Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist

By Newbery Honor-winning author

MARGARITA ENGLE

Illustrated by

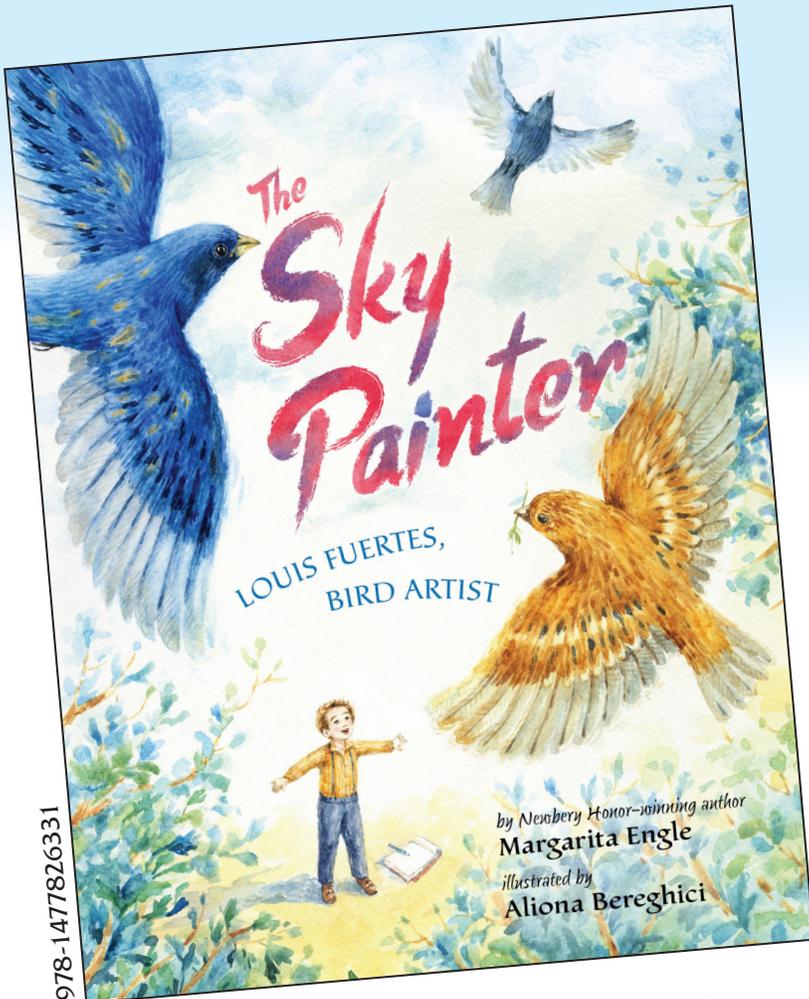
ALIONA BEREGHICI

LOUIS LOVES TO WATCH BIRDS. He takes care of them when they are injured and studies how they look and how they move. His father wants him to become an engineer, but Louis

dreams of being a bird artist. He learns from the still life paintings of John James Audubon, but as Louis grows up, he begins to draw and paint living, flying birds in their natural habitats.

Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874-1927) is now known as the father of modern bird art. He traveled all over the world on scientific expeditions to paint birds. His best-known works—paintings for habitat exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History in New York—are still beloved by visitors today. His art helped to encourage wildlife conservation.

Poems by Newbery Honor-winning author Margarita Engle and illustrations by Aliona Bereghici capture the life of Louis Fuertes and the deep sense of wonder that he felt when he painted the sky. The fun activities in this kit will inspire young readers to explore the “magical world of wings!”



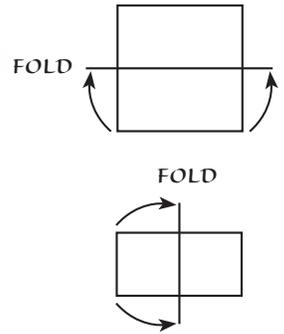
Sketch Artist

Louis Fuertes learned to draw birds by studying them. Can you study this painting of an Eastern Screech Owl and then sketch him in the notebook below?



Card for a Friend

Do you have a friend who loves birds? Send him/her a card to show that you love birds, too! Cut on the dotted line below. With the plain white side of the paper facing you, fold as indicated to create your card.



CUT HERE

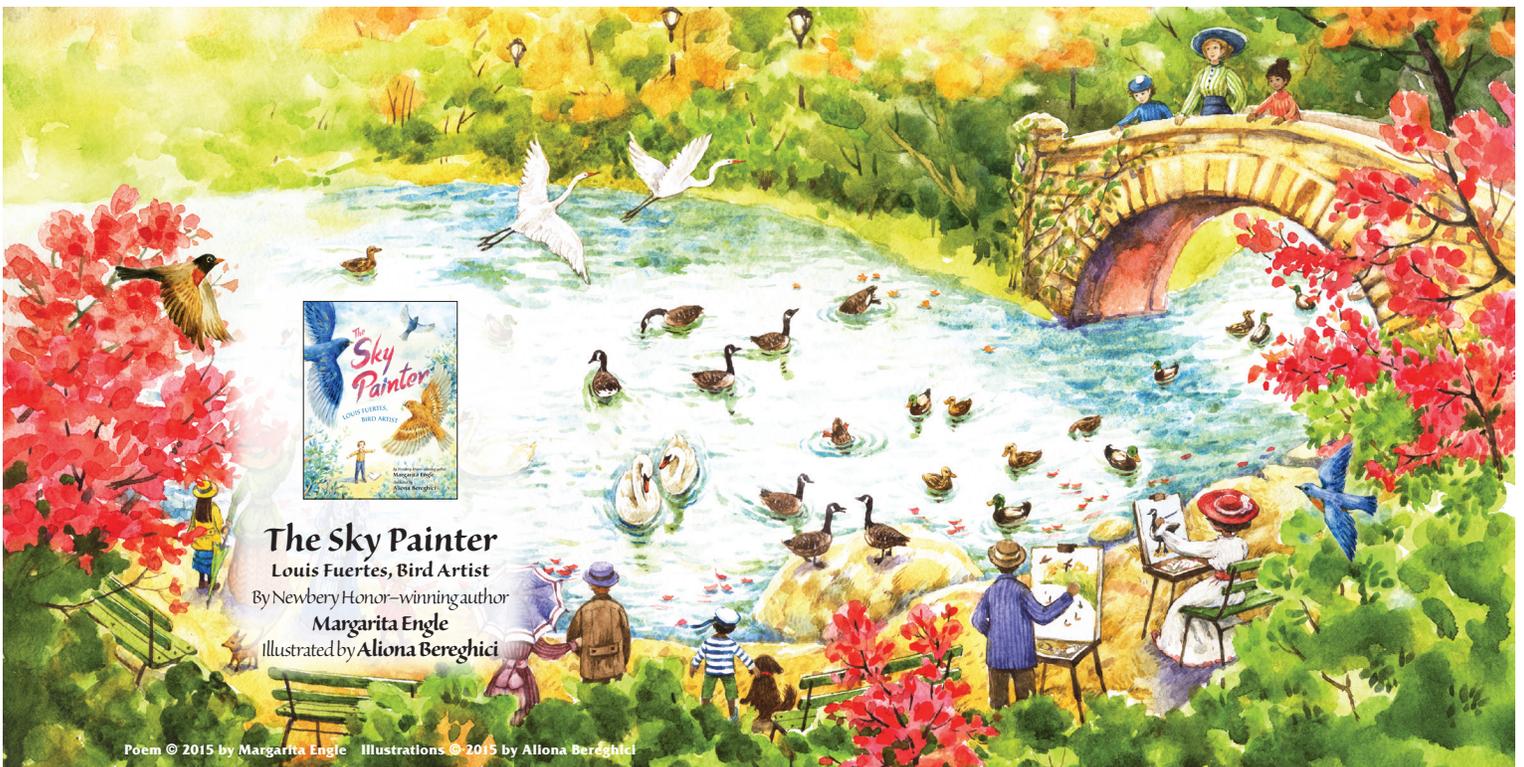
from *The Sky Painter: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist*
—Margarita Engle,

All over the world, millions of people
have learned to enjoy, protect,
and celebrate
the wild beauty
of wings!

When I walk around the park,
I see people watching the sky
as they identify songbirds,
eagles, and egrets. . . .

My bird paintings are printed
on cards that children
love to collect.

Bird-watching



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Birds, Birds, Birds!

The official names of birds often include an identifying characteristic, like the color of the bird, or a unique marking or feature. Look at the list of bird names below. Can you match each name to the correct bird in the drawing?



1. American Crow
2. American Goldfinch
3. Belted Kingfisher
4. Cerulean Warbler
HINT: Cerulean is a blue color and warblers love to sing with an open beak
5. Eastern Bluebird
6. Eastern Screech Owl
7. Red Crossbill
8. White-breasted Nuthatch

Bird Teacher

When Louis was in college, he used to sketch his teachers as cartoon birds. Can you draw a picture of your teacher below, but turn him or her into a lovely bird? Don't forget the tail feathers!

